Let's Grow a Library

Bloom makes it easy to create simple books
and translate them into multiple languages.

Goal: 10x More Books

Here's the problem Bloom addresses: when working in local-language literacy projects, we end up settling for what is practical, instead of what is actually needed. The hope is often that a primer and a handful of books will be enough to open up the joy and power of reading in minority language communities. But realistically, we know that it takes *stacks* of titles to make reading worthwhile and give the practice needed to develop true literacy. The problem has been who will make all those books? How will we find the time? Where will we get the content? So we settle for the possible and hope for the best.

Visit Book Library   Download Bloom

Build Local Capacity

Bloom dramatically lowers the bar, so that many more people can get involved in building a large collection of local language books. Bloom was designed with new computer users in mind, and it has special features to guide them in simple book making, so people need far less training than alternatives such as Word, Publisher, or In Design.

> “This week a new typist joined our workshop, and I spent half an hour showing him Bloom and then left him to it. When I checked on him later in the day, he was doing just fine. I thought, What other program could I have put in front of him such that he would be able to use it with just half an hour's orientation?!”

English

Prossy Nanyombi
Uganda School Health and Reading Program

Online Shell Books Source

Bloom's Book Library offers books from around the world for you to translate into a local language. With a single click, shell books are downloaded to your computer, ready to use even when you're offline.

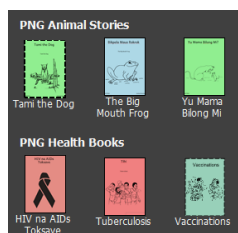
Got a book you'd like to share? Just add a major language translation (e.g. English, French, Thai) and then tell Bloom to upload it to the online library.

To learn more, check out Bloom's instructional videos.

Power Where You Need It

English

Bloom users find that it is not only easier to get started, but easy to do things that are difficult or impossible in the alternative tools. Things like:

- PDF Booklet Creation
- Bilingual and trilingual books in a single click
- Individual reader to Big Book in a single click
- Calendars
- Picture Dictionaries
- Primers and Teacher's Guides
- Complex Non-roman Script Support
- Decodable Reader Tool
- Leveled Reader Tool
- EBooks

Shell Books

A growing collection of Creative Commons-licensed shell books help you grow your library quickly. Just add a book to your vernacular library, then type in translations.

Template Books

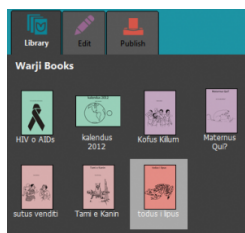
Bloom isn't just for *shell* books. To create a brand new book, we use what Bloom calls a *template*. For most books, the "Basic Book" template is enough. It contains templates pages with the most frequently used layouts. There is also a Picture Dictionary template and Wall Calendar template.

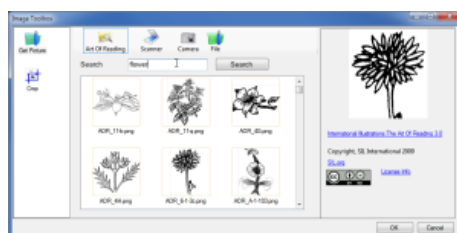
Effortless PDF Booklets

Click on Bloom's Publish tab, and voilà! You have a PDF file laid out as a booklet, ready for saving or printing.

English

Multilingual Books

For each box of text, Bloom stores text in any a number of languages. You can then tell it to show one, two, or three of those languages to make monolingual, bilingual, or trilingual versions of the publication.

All your Books, a Click Away

Bloom never asks you to find things in the computer's file system. It just shows your library and books that you can add to it when you're ready.

Pictures from the Art of Reading Collection

After you install our free Art Of Reading Collection, it's easy to find hand-drawn illustrations from around the world.

Limitations

Bloom is not a general-purpose page layout program. It isn't as flexible as InDesign or Publisher. Instead, it offers just what you most often need to produce simple books for literacy purposes.

Getting Started

To get started making new books in Bloom, install Bloom on a computer, choose a template, and start adding pages.

If you just want to get started using shellbooks, install Bloom on your computer, and then head to the Book Library for some shellbooks you can translate.

Have some existing books you'd like to get into Bloom? To do that, just copy the text and pictures from whatever program they are in now and paste into pages in Bloom. We expect you'll have questions during this process about templates, copyright, licenses, etc.

We'd love to talk with you!

English